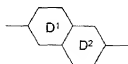


(XVII)

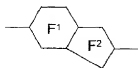
where the symbols and indices are as defined in claim 7 or as defined below:



is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of naphthalene-2,6-diyl, in which one or two ring carbon atoms may be replaced by N and which can be monosubstituted or disubstituted by F or CN and in which D¹ or D² may also be a (saturated) alicycle



is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of phenylene-1,4-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by CN, or unsubstituted, monosubstituted, disubstituted, trisubstituted or tetrasubstituted by F, pyridine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, cyclohexane-1,4-diyl

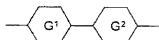


is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of indane-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by F in the aromatic ring, indan-1-one-2,6-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by F in the aromatic ring, benzothiazole-2,6-diyl, benzothiazole-2,5-diyl, benzo[b]-thiophene-2,5-diyl, benzo[b]thiophene-2,6-diyl

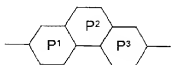


is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of (1,3,4)-thiadiazole-2,5-diyl, (1,3)-thiazole-2,5-diyl, thiophene-

2,5-diyl, (1,3,4)-oxadiazole-2,5-diyl, (1,3)-oxazole-2,5-diyl, isoxazole-2,5-diyl

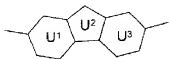


- 5 is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of 1,1'-biphenyl-4,4'-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by CN, or unsubstituted, monosubstituted, disubstituted, trisubstituted or tetrasubstituted by F, 1,1'-phenylcyclohexyl-4,4'-diyl, 5,5'-pyridylpyrimidine-2,2'-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F in one or both of the heterocycles,
- 10 5,2'-pyridylpyrimidine-2,5'-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F in one or both of the heterocycles, 1,2'-phenyldioxane-4,5'-diyl, 1,2'-(2-fluorophenyl)dioxane-4,5'-diyl, 1,2'-(3-fluorophenyl)dioxane-4,5'-diyl, 1,2'-(2,3-difluorophenyl)dioxane-4,5'-diyl



- 15 is a bivalent phenanthrene-2,7-diyl radical in which one or two ring carbon atoms may be replaced by N and which may be monosubstituted, disubstituted, trisubstituted or tetrasubstituted by F and in which P^2 and/or P^3 may be a (saturated) alicycle

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- is a bivalent fluorene-2,7-diyl radical in which the $-CH_2-$ group in U^2 may be replaced by $-C(=O)-$, $-CHF-$ or $-CF_2-$



- 25 is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of phenylene-1,3-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by F, cyclohexane-1,3-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F or CN, pyridine-2,6-diyl, pyridine-2,4-diyl, pyridine-3,5-diyl, pyridine-4,6-diyl, pyrimidine-4,6-diyl,



- 30 is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of phenylene-1,4-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubsti-